Aids in India

213. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 2.5 million Indians already carry the HIV (Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus) as per the news-item entitled "HIV has hit 2.5 million Indians" which appeared in the Times of India, dated 6th April, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the latest facts regarding the spread of AIDS in the country;

(c) what fresh steps Government propose to take to prevent/ stop the spread of AIDS in this country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b), Government has seen the news item titled "HIV has hit 2.5 million Indians" which appeared in the Times of India dated 6th April, 1992.

Surveillance for detecting HIV infection among groups practising at risk, behaviour was initiated in October, 1985. As on 1st April, 1992, 7272 persons practising at risk behaviour were found to be positive out of a total number of 13,48,965 persons screened. This indicates a zero positivity rate of 5.39 per 1000 amongst groups practising at risk behaviour.

There are no reliable estimates regarding the prevalence of HIV infection in the general population.

(c) A comprehensive project for prevention and control of AIDS was formulated and posed to the World Bank. Negotiations have been concluded for financing the project. World Bank has agreed to provide assistance of Rs. 22.95 crores for implementation of AIDS Control Project. The project will involve total outlay of Rs. 270 crores and will be implemented for a period of 5 years beginning 1992. WHO will provide an assistance of Rs. 4.05 crores. The balance project outlay of Rs. 36.45 crores will be funded by the Government of India.

The National AIDS Control Project would be implemented as centrally sponsored scheme during the eighth five year plan. The project activities will be undertaken in the following areas:—

—Condom promotion

—Blood Safety

—Control of sexually transmitted disease.

—Information, education and communi-cation

—Surveillance

—Case management

—Programme Management and training to Medical and Para-medical staff.

Government Rules in respect of Leprosy Patients

214. SHRl MENTAY PADMANA-BHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India of 1st April, 1992 under the caption "Government rules against leprosy patients" ;

(b) what is Government's reaction to the demand to update various laws affecting leprosy patients ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to change existing attitudes to laprosy patients ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sit.

(b) The Union Government has already repealed the Lapers Act, 1895. All the States/UTs except Punjab and Bihar have lnso repealed this Act. Those two States have been requested to repeal the Act al an early date. Other discriminatory acts art'ecting leprosy patients were discussed by a Special Group in the Annual Conference of Voluntary Organisatations held under

National leprosy Eradication Programme, at Bombay on 21st-22nd September 1991. It was felt by the participants of the Conference that all such acts/laws should be reviewed and suitably updated.

(c) Following steps are being taken to change the existing attitude to leprosy patients—

—Emphasis is being given on health education of the leprosy patients, their family members and community about the facts of leprosy and its curability.

—Encouragement to the Voluntary Organisations in the field of leprosy particulary for survey education and treatment activities.

—Community awareness has been included in the evaluation of the programme.

—Special programmes are being undertaken for social and economic rehabilitation of leprosy patients.

Commercial blood Banks

215. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Wiil the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Govemment are aware that some commercial blood banks in the capital are setting blood by issuing their own certificate with the bottles, claiming that the mandatory screening for AIDS virus had been done and the blood was safe while such blood has been found to contain deadly AIDS virus, just before it was administered to patients in a private nursing home;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry had been ordered into this sordid affair and the action taken against the guilty blood bank's owners; and

(c) what steps are being taken to plug the various lacunae in the existing regulations governing the blood trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI S1DDHARTHA): (a) Yes.

(b) The Delhi Administration have set up a committee to investigate the whole issue.

(c) Amendments are proposed in the Rules under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to require ratification by Central Government before issue of licences for Blood Banks and for laying down clear guidelines for provision of infrastructure, equipment, testing facilities and stall for blood banks. State/UT Governments have been advised to ensure that all Blood Banks are duly licensed and they fully comply with the laws and regulations in force.

Specialists in C.G.H.S. Dispensaries

216. SHRI SYED S1BTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Specialists available in some nodal C.G.H.S, dispensaries have their timings of examination of patients ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof separately for summer and winter seasons ;

(c) whether some C.G.H.S, dispensaries have been attached with these nodal dispensaries ;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether ihese facilities have duly been displayed at notice boards of attach ed dispensaries ; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor *1*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The timing for examination of patients are as under:—

Summer From 8.30 A.M.—till all the cases are disposed of.

Winter From 9.00 A. M.—till all the casse are disposed of.